

**REMARKS**

In response to the Final Office Action and the Board's Decision, Applicant amends Claims 1, 7, 14, and 21 for purposes of advancing prosecution. Applicant also cancels Claims 2-3, 8-9, 15, and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case in light of these remarks and the amendments above.

**35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection**

The Final Office Action rejected Claims 1, 7, 14, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In particular, the Final Office Action asserted that the limitation directed to "wherein the communication link forms a complete path that couples at least the client to at least the particular interface card" was allegedly not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant traversed this rejection, and the Board's Decision reversed the rejection. *See* Board's Decision at p. 14. For purposes of advancing prosecution, however, Applicant amends Claims 1, 7, 14, and 21 to eliminate this limitation, thereby obviating this rejection.

**35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections**

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1, 4-7, 10-14, 16, and 18-21, 22 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,937,777 issued to Flood et al ("*Flood*"). The Board reversed the Examiner's rejection of Claims 3, 9, and 17. *See* Board's Decision at p. 14. Applicant amends Claims 1, 7, and 14 to incorporate elements of Claims 3, 9, and/or 17, respectively, that the Board's Decision indicates are not disclosed by *Flood*. *See id.* Additionally, Applicant also amends Claim 21 to introduce elements similar to those of Claims 3, 9, and 17 that the Board indicates are not disclosed by *Flood*. Thus, according to the Board's Decision, amended Claims 1, 7, 14, and 21 are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1, 7, 14, and 21, and their respective dependent claims in accordance with the Board's Decision.

The Board also reversed the Examiner's rejection of Claims 22-26. *See* Board's Decision at p. 14. Thus, according to the Board's Decision, Claims 22-26 are also allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 22-26 in accordance with the Board's Decision.

**35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections**

Claims 2-3, 8-9, 15, 17, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Flood* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,304,895 issued to Schneider et al. ("*Schneider*"). Applicant cancels Claims 2-3, 8-9, 15, and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby obviating this rejection. With respect to all cancellations and amendments herein, Applicant reserves the right to pursue broader subject matter than that presently claimed through the filing of continuations and/or other related applications.

As noted above, according to the Board's Decision, Claim 23 is allowable. *See* Board's Decision at p. 14. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claim 23 in accordance with the Board's Decision.

**Conclusions**

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicant stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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